

SUBJECT
cc master
OPS.

JMS



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M17

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Now that the Social Security Act has received Royal Assent I should like to congratulate you, your fellow Ministers in the DHSS and your officials for their success in securing the most important reform of social security legislation for over forty years. This has been a major undertaking from the Social Security Review itself to the Green Paper in June last year, the White Paper in December and the Bill itself which has occupied so much of the efforts of DHSS Ministers and officials over the last eight months.

It is not often appreciated how much detailed and painstaking effort is necessary to give effect to the kind of wide-ranging reforms envisaged in the review and introduced in the Act. I should like everyone involved in the progress of the legislation from review to Royal Assent to know of my appreciation and gratitude for their work.

Margaret Thatcher

21 August 1986

10

PRIME MINISTER

1
(dated 30.7.86)
You will recall seeing the attached minute
from Mr. Fowler about the passage of the
1986 Social Security Act. I gather from
his office that both Mr. Fowler and Kenneth
Stowe are quite keen that you should endorse
what he says about the efforts of his officials
both during the review and the passage
of the Bill.

Agree that I should minute DHSS accordingly?

W
TIM FLESHER

yes please
mf
19 August 1986

DHSS

to

minute in way
now pm

I will sign it.



Garth horns.
How did this
happen?
N.L.W

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522 ext 6981

From the Permanent Secretary

Sir Kenneth Stowe GCB CVO

Nigel Wicks Esq
 10 Downing Street

16 September 1986

Dear Nigel,

at Har

On my return from leave, I saw the Prime Minister's minute of 21 August to Norman Fowler, expressing her appreciation and gratitude for all the work that went into the social security review.

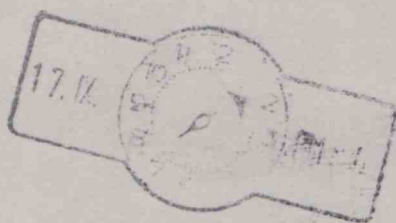
It was a good gesture, and I am sure will be widely welcomed. It may seem churlish, therefore, to point out that the minute was incorrectly addressed: Mr Fowler is Secretary of State for Social Services, not Health and Social Security. I was surprised by this - or am I meant to infer that serious consideration was being given at the time to splitting the Department!

No reply needed, of course,
but I couldn't resist a tease.

Yours ever

Ken

SOCIAL SERVICES: Review of



MR WICKS

28 July 1986

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

The Social Security Bill has now completed its final stages. Although the DHSS have got into a few scrapes, the overall pattern of measures is very much as agreed last year. This is a considerable achievement on the part of Norman Fowler, Tony Newton (who has had a particularly onerous year) John Major and Baroness Trumpington. They have borne a heavy Parliamentary burden.

I wonder if the Prime Minister would be prepared to drop a short personal note to Norman Fowler, congratulating him and his team of Ministers on their hard work getting the Bill through, largely unscathed?

David Willetts

DAVID WILLETTS

Prime Minister

Please see David's note above.

I would not advise a letter. If you wrote to Mr Fowler in praise of his depts efforts on this bill it would only be fair to write to other depts about their bills. So I suggest YOU CONGRATULATE MR FOWLER WHEN YOU SEE HIM TOMORROW. N.C.W. 24/7